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REMARKS**Status of Claims**

Claims 1-4, 6-13 and 15-18 are pending in the application. Claim 18 stands objected to. Claims 1-4, 6-13 and 17 stand rejected. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claim 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent format. The Examiner states that the prior art of record fails to teach the method of installing a plurality of siding strips on a wall with the use of a component including in combination an outwardly bowed portion and having first and second U-shaped receiving sections projecting "substantially" 180 degrees on opposing sides of the body; wherein the component is affixed to the wall of a building using fasteners.

The Examiner further states that the component of Tanner is used to form the wall itself. The Examiner states that there is no need for the component of Tanner to be fastened to an additional wall.

Claim Objections

Claim 16 stands objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.

Applicants have amended claim 16 to properly depend from independent claim 11. In addition, Applicants have amended claim 15 to properly depend from claim 11. Claim 15 previously depended from claim 14 (cancelled).

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 15 and 16 now comply with 37 CFR 1.75(c). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claim 16 be withdrawn.

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Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1, 4-6, 13, 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent 5,265,390 to Tanner.

As presented above, the Examiner provides a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The Examiner states, "The component of Tanner is used to form the wall itself. There is no need for the component of Tanner to be fastened to an additional wall."

Applicants claim (in part):

1. A component for receiving a plurality of horizontally extending siding strips in a siding system for covering a substantially flat or planar wall of a building or dwelling, comprising: an elongated body for abutting against the substantially planar wall, said body including first and second receivers projecting substantially 180 degrees in opposite directions, each for receiving a portion of at least one of the plurality of horizontally extending siding strips along the substantially planar wall ...

11. A siding system for covering a substantially planar portion of a wall in a dwelling, comprising at least one first siding strip and at least one second siding strip, said siding strips extending substantially horizontally along the wall; at least one siding component extending vertically along the wall, said component including first and second opposed receivers extending substantially 180 degrees in opposite directions, said first receiver receiving a portion of said at least one first siding strip and said second receiver receiving a portion of said at least one second siding strip, said first and second siding strips extending horizontally along the substantially planar portion of the wall ...

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 11 clearly define over Tanner and are deemed to be allowable in view of the Examiner's statement with respect to claim 18, i.e. "that the component of Tanner is used to form the wall itself. The Examiner states that there is no need for the component of Tanner to be fastened to an additional wall." Likewise, in claims 1 and 11, Applicant claims that the elongated body abuts against the substantially planar wall (1) and that it is connected to the end wall (11), and therefore like claim 18, Tanner fails to teach or suggest such a construction.

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Dependent claims 4-6 ultimately depend from claim 1 and contain the limitations of claim 1 thereof. Dependent claims 13, 15 and 16 ultimately depend from claim 11 and contain the limitations of claim 11 thereof. Applicants respectfully request that the 102(b) rejection of claims 1, 4-6, 13, 15 and 16 be withdrawn.

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent 5,265,390 to Tanner.

Applicants claim (in part):

17. A method for **installing a plurality of horizontally extending siding strips on a wall** comprising:
providing an elongated siding component having first and second receivers projecting substantially 180 degrees in opposite directions and having an outwardly bowed portion, each receiver adapted for receiving a portion of at least one of the plurality of horizontally extending siding strips along the substantially planar wall, ...
vertically orienting said elongated siding component having first and second opposed receivers adjacent to the wall ...
affixing the first and second siding strips to the to the wall.

The Examiner states, "Tanner discloses a method for installing a plurality of siding members (14) . . . and affixing the siding members to the wall (10) of a building." Applicants respectfully submit, that as the Examiner correctly pointed out with respect to claim 18, Tanner teaches forming a wall panel (10) and fails to teach or suggest affixing the siding members to the wall of a building.

Further, as set forth above, in the statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The Examiner states, "The component of Tanner is used to form the wall itself. There is no need for the component of Tanner to be fastened to an additional wall."

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 17 clearly defines over Tanner is deemed to be allowable in view of the Examiner's statement. Applicants respectfully request that the 102(b) rejection of claim 17 be withdrawn.


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Conclusion

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested. Allowance of claims 1-4, 6-13 and 15-18 at an early date is solicited. If any questions should arise with respect to the above Remarks, or if the Examiner has any comments or suggestions to place the claims in better condition for allowance, it is requested that the Examiner contact Applicant's agent at the number listed below.

If any fees are required pertaining to this response, Applicant request that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0568.

Respectfully submitted,


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